

Growing WORKFORCE connections

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Take time to save time

... and money. Employer seminars offer tips on how to do both, plus cover real-world issues.

By Kim Saylor Brannock, Staff Writer

Every penny and minute matters for businesses that are watching the bottom line. To help Kentucky employers save money and time, the Kentucky

Department for Employment Services (DES) is offering seminars statewide to provide information on unemployment insurance and employment services.

DES Commissioner Jim Thompson said that employers will benefit from the informational sessions in several ways.

"These seminars can show employers how to save money on unemployment insurance taxes, provide information on employment services available at local offices, and give employers a forum to ask important questions on issues such as how to protect their unemployment insurance reserve account and how to prepare for an appeals hearing," he said.

"Employers will learn about new time-saving Internet tools that allow self-service on-line."

The department provides job placement and unemployment insurance services through a network of field offices located throughout Kentucky. DES is a department of the Cabinet for Workforce Development.

Jim Wright, director of human resources at Hinkle Contracting Corp. in Paris, attends a seminar each year to stay up-to-date on employment issues. "The topics were very relevant to our everyday questions and problems that we face dealing with unemployment and employment issues. It's a most worthwhile day of training," he said.

Viki Thomasson, an administrator at Ridgewood Terrace Nursing Home in

Madisonville, also found the seminars informative.

"The interactive presentation of the seminar was just what I needed to have all my questions answered by the experts. The mock (unemployment insurance) hearing was invaluable in helping me, as an employer, to understand the hearing process. ... I know who to call with my questions and problems," she said.

The \$45 registration fee covers the continental breakfast and lunch. Space is limited. Those who wish to attend should register as soon as possible. There is a non-refundable policy for cancellations.

For more information, call Kristen Swatzyna at 502-564-2900. You can also reach her by e-mail at

KristenL.Swatzyna@mail.state.ky.us.

Dates and locations are available at www.desky.org.



GED incentive plan odds-on favorite at Keeneland

by Kim Saylor Brannock, Staff Writer

“It brings out loyalty to the company ... they say, ‘Look what the company is doing for me.’”

*Jan Landers,
Keeneland's director of Human Resources*

Keeneland race course has a winning tradition with horses, and now it has started a new winning tradition with its employees through the GED Incentive Program.

Since January, seven employees have reached the finish line and earned their GEDs.

Kentucky employers can earn a tax credit of up to \$1,250 by allowing employees paid release time to study for the GED test. Employees can earn a \$250 tuition discount per semester for a maximum of four semesters at a Kentucky public postsecondary institution.

Keeneland Director of Human Resources Jan Landers said a company policy requires supervisors to have a high school diploma or GED. She estimates that about 25 percent of

Keeneland employees do not have a high school credential.

"Some long-term employees couldn't be promoted to supervisor because of the policy. Now we're able to get supervisors from our pool of employees," Landers said.

Landers recommends the incentive program to other employers.

"It brings out loyalty to the company because they can say, 'Look what the company is doing for me,'" she said.

To know more, contact Dr. B.J. Helton with the Department for Adult Education and Literacy at (502) 564-5114. Her e-mail address is brendaj.helton@mail.state.ky.us. The agency is in the Cabinet for Workforce Development.



Cabinet scholarships promote EDUCATION PAYS

By Janet Williams Hoover, Communications Director

In the latest analysis of Kentucky’s job growth, a report by the Department for Employment Services states that “education will continue to be one of the most critical factors to one’s success in gaining employment in a chosen field.”

Because education is critical to individual and economic development, the Cabinet for Workforce Development promotes educational opportunities on many fronts. One of the cabinet’s most visible efforts is the annual Education Pays Scholarships, which were presented by Gov. Paul E. Patton and Secretary Allen D. Rose recently in the Capitol Rotunda.

The 25 scholarship students are pursuing postsecondary education in a variety of fields. Their ages range from 17 to 46 years old.

The governor congratulated the scholarship winners for continuing their education. “Some of you finished high school this spring, and others of you have seen a few years go by since you sat in a classroom,” he said. “You have taken different roads, but eventually you arrived at the same intersection ... you realized that your life journey would be made better by continuing your education. In other words, you know that education pays.”

Each of the scholarship winners has used at least one of the Cabinet for Workforce

At right is Meredith Cook of Shelbyville, a 19-year-old business student at the University of Kentucky. She received her Education Pays scholarship from Gov. Paul E. Patton, right, and Workforce Development Secretary Allen D. Rose.



Development’s employment and training programs and services. Scholarship applicants were required to write an essay on “How Education Pays in My Life.” The \$500 scholarships may be used for tuition, books and lab and technology fees.

Scholarship Winners

Robin Aikman, 18, Guston; a dental hygiene student at Elizabethtown Community College; nominated by Evelyn Evans, Meade County Adult Education/Department for Adult Education and Literacy.

Stacy Ballard, 25, Beattyville; a nursing student at Hazard Community College-Lees College Campus; nominated by Judy Banks of the Department for Employment Services.

Robert Blake, 46, Louisville; a human services student at Jefferson Community College; nominated by Vickie Lang of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Angela Branham, 30, Edmonton; a practical nursing student at Bowling Green Technical College-Glasgow Campus; nominated by Sabrina Alvey, Workforce Investment Act program/Department for Training and ReEmployment.

Meredith Cook, 19, Shelbyville; a business student at the University of Kentucky; nominated by John Haynes, Shelby County Area Technology Center/Department for Technical Education.

William Crouse, 27, Frankfort; an electronics student at Central Kentucky Technical College-Anderson Campus; nominated by Erin O’Donnell, Thorn Hill Learning Center/Department for Adult Education and Literacy.

Valerie Falloway-Askins, 29, Robards; a criminal law student at Owensboro Community College; nominated by Rhonda Bowles of the Department for Employment Services.

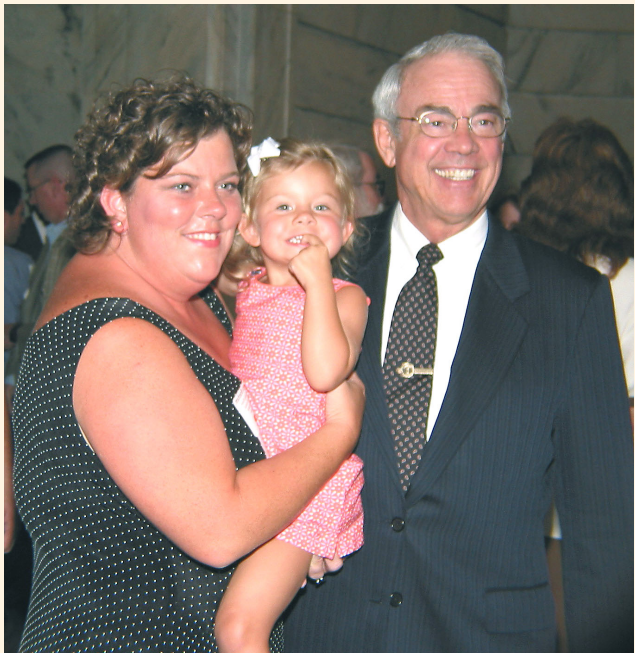
Gary Gibbs, 46, Louisville; an electrical engineering student at the University of Louisville; nominated by Harold Brosnan, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Susan Gilbert, 43, Waco; a sociology and corrections student at Eastern Kentucky University; nominated by Rick Collins of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Ashlea Houchens, 20, Glasgow; an education student at Lindsey Wilson College; nominated by Reyna Gibbons of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Michael Howard, 41, Owensboro; an information technology and networking student at Owensboro Community College; nominated by Joanne Krueger, Department for Employment Services.

Carla Martin, 39, Danville; an office systems technology student at Eastern Kentucky University-Danville Campus;



Education Pays scholarship winner Angela Branham, of Edmonton, and her daughter, Madison Lynn, pose with Gov. Paul Patton.

events

Below are remaining dates for the Department for Employment Services one-day employer seminars. See the front page for more details.

Somerset/The Center	Sept. 19	Bowling Green/Barren River State Park	Oct. 9 or 10
Owensboro/Executive Inn Rivermont	Sept. 24	Ashland/Ashland Plaza Hotel	Oct. 16
Hopkinsville/Holiday Inn	Sept. 25	Paducah/Executive Inn Rivermont	Oct. 23 or 24
Covington/Drawbridge Inn	Oct. 1 or 2	Prestonsburg/Jenny Wiley State Park	Oct. 29



...you have taken
different roads, but
... you realized that
your life journey
would be made
better by continuing
your education."

*Gov. Paul E. Patton,
at the Education Pays
Scholarship Award ceremony*

*Gary Gibbs, an Education Pays scholarship
winner, spoke at the awards ceremony. Gibbs
is a three-time winner of the scholarship.*



nominated by Emanuel Gray, Department for
Employment Services.

Jacqueline May, 44, Leros; a nursing
student at Hazard Community College-Lees
College Campus; nominated by Haley Sandlin,
Owsley County Adult Education/Department
for Adult Education and Literacy.

Aaron McDonald, 22, Waco; an
agriculture education student at the University
of Kentucky; nominated by Rick Collins,
Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Sara Mudd, 20, Louisville; a history and
pre-law student at the University of Louisville;
nominated by Vickie Lang, Department of
Vocational Rehabilitation.

Charles Reed, 20, Providence; a
technology education student at Murray State
University; nominated by Raegina Scott,

Webster County Area Technology Center/
Department for Technical Education.

Jennifer Rogers, 17, Clay City; a pre-
veterinary student at Morehead State
University; nominated by Susan Watson,
Powell County Adult Education Center/
Department for Adult Education and Literacy.

Chanda Scruggs, 21, Lexington; a
merchandising, apparel and textiles student at
the University of Kentucky; nominated by Jane
Smith, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

John Shemwell, 39, Trenton; an
education student at Murray State University-
Hopkinsville Campus; nominated by Phyllis
Reynolds, Department for Employment
Services.

Kendra Smith, 19, Scottsville; a public
relations student at Western Kentucky

University; nominated by Jane Smith of the
Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Kimberly Stinson, 18, Drakesboro; a
human development and counseling student at
Lindsey Wilson College; nominated by Chad
Hunt, Department for the Blind.

Kevin Swift, 26, Bowling Green; a
sociology, criminology and psychology student
at Western Kentucky University; nominated by
Kelli Alvey, Workforce Investment Act/
Department for Training and ReEmployment.

Sandra Tolson, 30, Winchester; a nursing
student at Eastern Kentucky University;
nominated by Susan Watson, Powell County
Adult Education/Department for Adult
Education and Literacy.

Jennifer Underwood, 21, Olive Hill; a
paralegal studies and pre-law student at
Morehead State University; nominated by Sara
Aldridge, Olive Hill Adult Learning Center/
Department for Adult Education and Literacy.

Stephen Willis, 29, Richmond; an
industrial technology education student at
Eastern Kentucky University; nominated by
Rick Collins, Department of Vocational
Rehabilitation.



*Gov. Paul E. Patton,
right, and Workforce
Development Secretary
Allen D. Rose, left,
present Robert Blake,
46, with his Education
Pays scholarship. Blake is
a human services student
at Jefferson Community
College.*



Growing a strong workforce for the Bluegrass State

Cabinet for Workforce Development

Growing Workforce Connections

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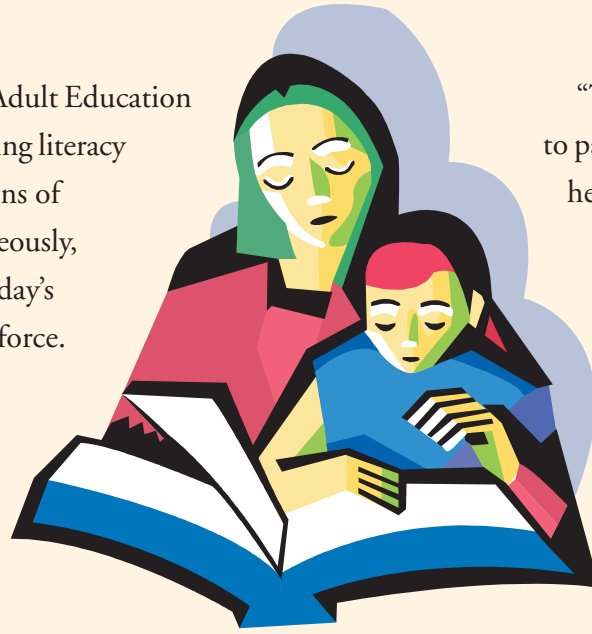
Literacy lifts lives of parents, children

Parents reading to children — a quintessential snapshot of the parent-child relationship. But what if a parent's literacy skills hinder reading? Family literacy programs can help.

The Department for Adult Education and Literacy is increasing literacy skills of two generations of Kentuckians simultaneously, thereby developing today's and tomorrow's workforce.

This year, family literacy services are funded in all 120 Kentucky counties for the first time. Only one other state, Pennsylvania, supports family literacy to this degree.

"The expansion of family literacy statewide gives communities even more ways to reach adults with low literacy skills," said Dr. Cheryl King, commissioner of the Department for Adult Education and Literacy in the Cabinet for Workforce Development and vice-president of the Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE).



"These programs are targeted to parents and are designed to help adults improve their own reading skills while they learn how to support their children's educational achievement."

Family literacy programs, provided by local adult education centers, address the educational needs of

parents and children together to help make families self-sufficient. The programs include four components: interactive parent-child learning activities, adult education, child education and information about literacy development of children.

Want more information?

Call Dr. King at 502-564-5114 or 502-573-1555. She can also be reached via e-mail at CherylD.King@mail.state.ky.us.

About 340,000 Kentuckians lack the minimal literacy skills needed to function effectively in the marketplace, the workplace, the home and the community.



Growing a strong workforce for the Bluegrass State

Cabinet for Workforce Development

Visit our Web site at www.kycwd.org